

Scott County Comprehensive Plan

CHAPTER 2: VISION, GOALS, AND OBJECTIVES

Within Scott County, there is overwhelming support for farmland preservation in concert with an emphasis for land development to be located within municipalities. A Vision Statement has been formulated to capture the future view Scott County residents expressed through the public input process and in working with the Technical and Advisory Committees as well as the Planning Commission. A vision is a clear statement of what a county wants to become.

“Scott County will be distinguished as a governmental leader by protecting its farming heritage and preserving its agricultural land within the unincorporated areas, by conserving its critical resource areas and promoting economic vitality within the County, and by fostering intergovernmental cooperation and applying well-defined land use policies.”

County Goals

Goals articulate this vision by setting the direction for Scott County as it changes over time. The Scott County land use goals are to:

- **Protect and conserve the natural, human, and economic resources** that are the basis of the agricultural economy and rural lifestyle of the Scott County.
- **Ensure orderly and efficient growth** of residential, commercial, industrial, public, and semi-public land uses while maintaining the general welfare of County residents.
- **Ensure a decent home and suitable living environment** for all families, present and future, living in Scott County.
- **Encourage cooperation and communication** among the County, other units of local government, and the general public to improve human development, economic development, and ecological preservation.

Land Use Objectives

Objectives provide the framework to reach the county goals. For Scott County, the land use objectives work to ensure orderly and efficient growth while balancing the welfare of its residents.

Objective 1. Encourage the majority of future growth to occur within the boundaries of existing cities where adequate public services can be provided.

Objective 2. Encourage growth beyond municipal boundaries to locate on marginal agricultural and stable environmental land in locations identified by the Future Land Use Map.

Objective 3. Discourage development from locating on productive agricultural soils and other agricultural area when in conflict with efficient farming practices.

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Objective 4. Encourage the County and local governments to develop mutual agreements on preferred patterns of development, thereby enabling jurisdictions to operate with complementary growth policies.

Objective 5. Maintain a Future Land Use Map to graphically illustrate where the general areas for residential, commercial, and industrial development within the unincorporated areas of Scott County may be appropriate and where areas are expected to be preserved for farmland, conservation or natural areas, or recreation.

Land Use Policies

These objectives will be supported by specific land use policies. These policies will be used to evaluate land development decisions in Scott County and weigh whether changes are consistent with the vision, goals, and objectives.

- Scott County recognizes and accepts that normal agricultural and environmental nuisances occur with rural living.
- While Scott County encourages development to locate within cities, the following are guidelines for reviewing proposed new development in the rural unincorporated area of the county:
 - on marginal or poor agricultural land
 - with access to adequately constructed paved roads
 - where public and/or private facilities and services are present or planned, including water, sanitary sewer systems, schools, and parks; and in areas near existing employment centers and commercial areas to discourage sprawling and unplanned scattered development
 - where it is least disruptive of existing agricultural activities
 - in areas of stable environmental resources
 - where it is sufficiently buffered from other less intensive land uses
 - where it can be shown that there is a recognized need for such development
 - where it can be developed in an efficient and compact manner
 - where the development will be supportive of energy conservation

The County will take these general land use policies and apply more specific criteria as part of the land development review process. Refer to Chapter 10 Strategies for Implementation on these suggested revisions or clarifications.

Other Objectives in Scott County

Although the primary emphasis of this Comprehensive Plan is to guide how land will be utilized in Scott County, there are components of a comprehensive plan that address other aspects of county facilities and services in addition to land use. The following goals and objectives provide a framework for decision-making by Scott County officials for these other aspects of county governance.

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Environmental Objectives

These objectives work to protect and conserve the natural, human, and economic resources that are the basis for the County's physical setting.

Objective 1. Discourage new development on soil types with severe constraints or over vulnerable geologic areas to protect water supplies and to ensure proper wastewater treatment. The development must also comply with sedimentation and soil erosion control regulations.

Objective 2. Encourage that all new developments be designed to create a minimum disturbance to natural drainage patterns, natural landscape, wildlife and habitat, vegetation, and the ability of the land to absorb rainfall and prevent erosion.

Objective 3. Ensure that all new developments address storm water retention capacity displaced by that development. Whenever possible, retention areas should be set aside for recreational use.

Objective 4. Develop risk assessment for vulnerable public facilities related to natural and man-made hazards and plan for reducing these potential unintentional and intentional risks.

Parks, Open Space, and Conservation Area Objectives

Combining the second and third county goals, these objectives work to ensure that existing and future parks, open space, and conservation areas and programming for these areas are meeting the needs of the residents and offer opportunities for visitors to the county.

Objective 1. Utilize the Conservation Board strategic plan to guide maintenance and development initiatives for County parks and conservation areas.

Objective 2. Encourage new trends in recreational and physical activity within Scott County.

Objective 3. Encourage open space for active or passive recreation within residential subdivisions.

Objective 4. Work cooperatively with other jurisdictions on issues related to a countywide trail plan.

Transportation Objectives

To facilitate orderly and efficient growth, an effective and safe transportation network is needed. It should encourage a variety of modes of transportation to make possible the movement of goods and people.

Objective 1. Provide a clear traffic hierarchy of arterial, collector, and minor streets to connect existing areas to new developments.

Objective 2. Maintain the existing roadways to ensure good condition and safety. Improve street systems by upgrading existing roads in accordance with county engineer criteria.

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Other Facilities/Services Objectives

The following objectives serve goals three and four by addressing a suitable living environment and encouraging cooperation and communication with other jurisdictions that may provide infrastructure or services to new developments in unincorporated Scott County.

Objective 1. Ensure proper maintenance of existing county facilities.

Objective 2. Assure that the existing facilities and services are not burdened by new development.

Objective 3. Promote compliance of rural addressing standards for all rural residences to ensure that emergency service providers are able to locate homes in an efficient manner.

Objective 4. Collaborate with emergency service providers to establish standards regarding water supply and availability with which future developments must comply.

Administration Objectives

Operating county facilities and services in an accountable manner and encouraging positive public relations with residents and other organizations work to support all four county goals.

Objective 1. Maintain and review administrative, management, and personnel capacity for effective support and implementation of county activities.

Objective 2. Prepare and maintain an annual budget that implements county operations in a cost effective manner.

Objective 3. Encourage public involvement in county activities and seek ways to involve residents in policy-making and decisions on land use, county facilities, and services.

Objective 4. Pursue a variety of revenue sources and/or cooperative arrangements with other agencies/governments to offset expenditures including but not limited to grants, user and impact fees, tax increment financing, development rights transfers, joint purchasing, mutual aid or equipment use, etc. and examine ways to reduce costs and increase fund balances for county facilities and services.

Objective 5. Maintain communication with local, state, and federal governments in Scott County through conversations, meetings, associations, memberships, or other forums that promote cooperation and effective county operations.

Economic Development Objective

Objectives for economic development reinforce all four county goals to ensure orderly and efficient growth, protecting resources and assets, ensuring suitable living, and encouraged cooperation and communication among development leaders.

Objective 1. Promote a diverse regional economy and quality of life opportunities.

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Objective 2. Enhance public-private partnerships to address economic development in the region.

Objective 3. Ensure appropriate infrastructure to support business retention and expansion.

Objective 4. Support programs that invest in the human capital through education, mental health, and training opportunities.